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REMARKS

Applicants have considered the outstanding official action. It is respectfully submitted that the claims are directed to patentable subject matter and are in condition for formal allowance.

Claims 8-14, 16, 18-20, 25 and 27 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants note that the Examiner stated in the official action mailed June 23, 2005, that these claims were objected to, but allowable as set forth in Applicants' March 31, 2005 Amendment After Final Rejection, if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants have amended allowable claims 8-14, 16, 18-20, 25, and 27 to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims and to place them in the same allowable pending form as set forth in Applicants' March 31, 2005 Amendment After Final Rejection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested. Formal allowance of allowable claims 8-14, 16, 18-20, 25 and 27 is requested.

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The rejections based on art are as follows:

- (1) Claims 1, 17, 21, 24 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Japanese Patent No. JP02001113283A (JP '113283);
- (2) Claims 2, 23 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over JP '113283 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,320,751 (Burns);
- (3) Claims 3-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over JP '113283 in view of Japanese Publication No. JP2002102859A (JP '102859); and
- (4) Claims 15, 22 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over JP '113283.


Applicants have canceled claims 1-7, 15, 17, 21-24, 26 and 28-29. Accordingly, the § 102 and § 103 rejections of these claims are rendered moot. As such, withdrawal of the § 102 and § 103 rejections is respectfully requested.

Reconsideration and formal allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

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